

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 051340Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4721
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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USMISSION USBERLIN UNN
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E O 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR GE CG
SUBJ: GDR DENIES REPORTS OF MILITARY AID TO ZAIRE REBELS

REF: KINSHASHA 4125

1. IN RESPONSE TO ZAIRE'S MAY 2 DECISION TO BREAK
OFF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE GDR, A GDR MFA SPOKESMAN
HAS DENIED ACCUSATIONS OF GDR MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN SHABA
PROVINCE AS WELL AS ARMS SUPPLIES TO THE INVADING REBEL
FORCES. ACCORDING TO A MAY 3 ADN REPORT, THE MFA
EXPRESSED REGRET THAT ZAIRE HAD TAKEN THE UNJUSTIFIED
STEP OF "SUSPENDING" RELATIONS WITH THE GDR. THE MFA
SPOKESMAN ALLEGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE HAD FALLEN
VICTIM TO FALSE INFORMATION CONCOCTED BY THOSE
WHO SOUGHT TO CONCEAL THEIR OWN COOPERATION WITH RACIST
REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. NEITHER THE MFA NOR GDR MEDIA
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MENTIONED THAT ZAIRE HAD ACTUALLY BROKEN OFF RELATIONS
ENTIRELY AND GIVEN GDR DIPLOMATS 48 HOURS TO LEAVE ZAIRE.

2. ADN HAD PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ON MAY 1 THAT IT WAS
"AUTHORIZED" TO DENY WESTERN PRESS REPORTS THAT MUNITIONS
FROM THE GDR HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO SHABA PROVINCE. THIS
EARLIER REPORT HAD COME AS A RESULT OF ACCUSATIONS ON

RADIO KINSHASHA THAT SOVIET AND GDR MILITARY EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN FOUND IN SHABA AND CONTAINED THE FIRST THREATS OF BREAKING RELATIONS WITH THE GDR. THE ADN DENIAL DID NOT GO FURTHER TO REFUTE A FRANCE SOIR REPORT THAT THREE GDR CITIZENS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED ALONG WITH SEVEN CUBANS IN THE CITY OF MUTSHATSHA IN SOUTHERN ZAIRE.

3. COMMENT: THE GDR HAS CONTINUALLY VOICED SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND HAS PROVIDED INCREASING AID TO MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA, AND SPECULATION CONTINUES IN DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES IN EAST BERLIN REGARDING GDR'S MILITARY ASSISTANCE ROLE IN ZAIRE IN WAKE OF KINSHASHA'S ACTION.

THE GDR IS NO DOUBT UNHAPPY THAT ITS TIES WITH ZAIRE HAVE BEEN BROKEN SINCE IT TREASURES ANY EXTERNAL RECOGNITION AND DOES NOT LIKE TO STAND ACCUSED, EVEN BY CONSERVATIVE BLACK AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS, OF MEDDLING IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. GDR SENSITIVITY TO LATEST DEVELOPMENT IS EVIDENT FROM REMARK BY REGULAR GDR JOURNALIST CONTACT THAT MEDIA HERE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO AVOID ANY "INDEPENDENT" COMMENT ON AFRICA, AND TO STICK ONLY TO ADN REPORTS.

IN THE PAST, THE GDR HAS ALLOWED DIPLOMATS TO STAY IN BERLIN, BUT NOT TO DO BUSINESS, AFTER RELATIONS WERE BROKEN WITH THEIR GOVERNMENTS (E.G. SPAIN), PRESUMABLY AS ENCOURAGEMENT TO RESUME RELATIONS AGAIN. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY BELGIAN EMBASSY, WHICH HAS BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUESTED TO REPRESENT ZAIRE'S INTERESTS HERE, THAT ZAIRIAN DIPLOMATS WILL DEPART EAST BERLIN MAY 5, ALTHOUGH ONE STAFF MEMBER MAY REMAIN BEHIND TO HANDLE ADMIN/FINANCIAL MATTERS ACCORDING TO BDP EMBASSY SOURCE, BRUSSELS WILL DECIDE WHETHER BELGIAN EMBASSY HERE WILL REPRESENT ZAIRIAN INTERESTS. POLANSKY

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